

District 25 News

MAKIKI, TANTALUS, MCCULLY, PAPAOLEA

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2008



Aloha Neighbors!

With school in full swing and summer behind us, I have dedicated this month's newsletter to reflecting on a joyous event that took place at Makiki District Park, a true jewel in our community. Please enjoy the photos and wrap up of this year's Rediscover Makiki event that celebrated the newly renovated Makiki Library and the multitude of programs, services, and talent in our neighborhood.

I also want to direct your attention to an important question that will be considered by voters this election season. This election is truly one of great import as we will elect a new president, consider the question of rail and mass transit for our beautiful city, and determine whether or not to convene a Constitutional Convention to revise or amend our State Constitution. On this last question, there are many resources available to help you make an informed decision. Before Election Day, I urge you to check out the facts and make an informed decision!

Mahalo pumehana,

Della Au Belatti
State Representative, District 25

Above photo—Rediscover Makiki (July 26, 2008)—from L to R—Councilmember Ann Kobayashi, Representative Karl Rhodes, C&C Director of Economic Development Ann Chung, Representative Della Au Belatti, Mayor Mufi Hannemann, Hui o Makiki president Jeanette Koga-Horen, Friends of the Makiki Library Norma K. Koenig, Friends Board Member Wendy Maxwell, and Councilmember Rod Tam pose after the Mayor's presentation of the City's grant to host Makiki's first ever Rediscover Makiki: Sunset in the Park event.

The Shortlist

Don't miss these excellent opportunities to become informed. The League of Women Voters of Hawaii, the Hawaii Institute for Public Affairs (HIPA), and the Richardson School of Law—all of whom are neutral on the question of the ConCon—have arranged the following events to inform citizens about this important ballot question.

"A Primer on ConCon"

A free interactive seminar that presents the history and context for the November vote on ConCon. Keynote speaker Robert F. Williams, nationally renowned state constitutional law expert, discusses the basics and process of state constitutional revision, especially Hawaii's state constitution in light of lessons that can be drawn from other states' experiences. For planning purposes, please call 531-7448 or email voters@lwv-hawaii.com if attending.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6
State Capitol Auditorium
@ 9:00am-12:30pm

ConCon Discussion Forums

A series of discussions on the challenges and opportunities offered by a ConCon on the areas of Native Hawaiian Affairs, Education, and Environment, Land Use, Water, as well as a retrospective by veterans (delegates and news reporters) of the '78 ConCon. All will be broadcast beginning in September. Broadcasting dates and stations are posted on the League website at <http://www.lwv-hawaii.com>.

LIVE Televised Debate

Making the case for a ConCon are Attorney General Mark Bennett and State Representative Della Au Belatti; and making the case against it are Anne Feder Lee, PhD, and State Senator and Senate President Colleen Hanabusa. This will also be available after the debate by streaming video on the KGMB website, and rebroadcast on 'Olelo channel 49.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 14
KGMB Channel @ 6:30-7:30pm

On July 25-26, 2008, Friends of the Makiki Library, Hui o Makiki, and the City & County of Honolulu welcomed thousands of neighbors and friends to a celebration of community at Makiki District Park. Transformed into an outdoor movie theater, food court, and keiki fun area, the Park was the setting for the first-ever Rediscover Makiki: Sunset in the Park.

Highlights of the event included local entertainment, rides for keiki, water exercise, junior lifeguard and synchronized swimming demonstrations at the pool for all ages, a wide variety of food booths, tours of Makiki Library, a Sustainability Fair featuring presentations on the proposed Honolulu Sustainability Center, a Citizens' Resource Center to help navigate through various gov-

ernment programs and community services, a crafters' marketplace showcasing the talents of our neighbors, and, finally, movies in the Park to cap off two days and nights of fun.

Rediscover Makiki would not have been possible without the support of the City & County of Honolulu,
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Rediscover Makiki

Community celebrates a revitalized Makiki District Park



State Senator Carol Fukunaga, Councilmember Ann Kobayashi, Rep. Della Au Belatti, Mayor Mufi Hannemann, and community supporters participate in Blessing Ceremony of Makiki Library.



Makiki resident Frank DeLima wows the crowd with his infectious humor, quick wit, and mischievous smile!



Hui o Makiki member Kim Click assists neighbor at Friends of the Makiki Library book sale to raise funds for operation of the Makiki Library. The Makiki Library is wholly supported by private donations and fundraising efforts of the Friends.



Variety of food vendors keep the crowd happy and tummies full with delicious choices all day and all night long.



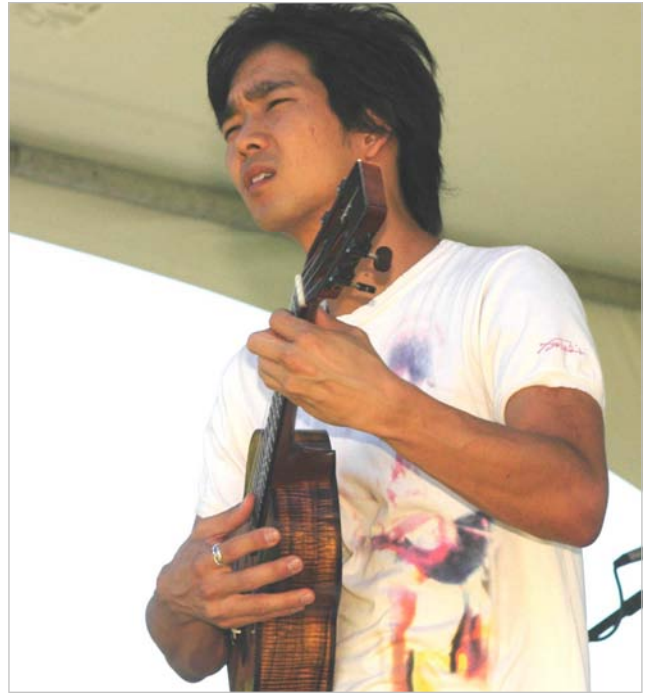
Makiki families enjoyed the opportunity to let loose and have some fun on the rides provided by Heather's Inflatables. In addition to these twirly rides and bounce house as seen in the background, children could also play on inflatable slides, climb on rock walls, or ride a train throughout the Park grounds.



Rediscover Makiki could not have been possible without the help of many volunteers. Pictured above are University students part of UH Mortar Board Society. Other volunteers included members of the Parish of St. Clement's, Hui o Makiki, Retired Senior Volunteer Program, and the community-at-large.



In addition to keiki games and rides, magicians, and face painters, storytellers on both days hosted story hours in the refurbished and carpeted children's Library reading area.



Makiki residents were treated to the fabulous talents of uku-lele virtuoso Jake Shimabukuro. Other entertainers included: Island Storm, Simplisity, von Baron, Greg Henry the Salsa Man and his Salsa Kids, Guy Cruz & Marc Pearlman, Ken Noyle, Partners in Time, Powerhouse, Wiki Waki Woo, A Touch of Gold, and Frank DeLima.

Coffee Talk *continued from page 2*

Mayor Mufi Hannemann, and Councilmembers Ann Kobayashi and Rod Tam. The can-do attitude of city staff from several departments (including the Office of Economic Development, the Police Department, Facility Maintenance, Customer Services, Environmental

Services, and the Board of Water Supply) and the unselfish service of many community volunteers demonstrated the depth and vibrancy of Makiki's community.

Finally, generous contributions came from many. Of special note were Rediscover Makiki's major fiscal sponsors: the City & County of

Honolulu, Hawaiian Electric Company, First Wind, Hawaii Medical Services Association, Hawaii Superferry, Papa John's Hawaii, and the Parish of St. Clement.

If you would like to be part of efforts for Rediscover Makiki 2009, please contact Norma K. Koenig at 946-3291.

Stirring community debate on calling our next Constitutional Convention

By BERNA FO

In November, Hawaii voters will be asked "Shall there be a convention to propose a revision of or amendments to the Constitution?" If passed, this will be the first comprehensive examination and review of Hawaii's state government in over 30 years. A Constitutional Convention or ConCon could advance a framework of values and governing principles for us as a community and democratic society.

Voters must begin educating themselves about what a ConCon could mean for the future of our state. To help, we've compiled a short list of community resources on Hawaii's ConCon that are accessible online or available on request.



The 1978 Hawaii State Constitutional Convention delegation.

Citizen Resources

- **Hawaii Legislative Reference Bureau ("LRB")**

The Constitution of the State of Hawaii

Read (or peruse) the entire state constitution with hyperlinks to the different sections at <http://hawaii.gov/lrb/con>.

Hawaii Constitutional Convention Studies 1978

A series of studies prepared by LRB for the 1978 convention to offer research and various perspectives on the issues being examined. Visit <http://hawaii.gov/lrb/reports/1978concon.html> to download PDF files of the reports.

"Amending the Hawaii Constitution" (2002), No. 02-05, is a brief Q&A that describes how the Constitution can be amended through the legislative process (vs. a constitutional convention) and the legislature's and people's roles within that process. Visit <http://hawaii.gov/lrb/lrbnotes02/0205notes.pdf>

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To comment on something written in *District 25 News* or to request regular e-delivery, please write to:

Representative Della Au Belatti
State Capitol, Room 331
Honolulu, HI 96813
repbelatti@capitol.hawaii.gov

An electronic copy may be downloaded from the Representative's House Majority web page at http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/hsemaj/.belatti_della.html. E-newsletters are posted after the paper version is mailed.

- **Amending the Hawaii State Constitution: A Citizen's Guide (May 2008)**

"A Citizen's Guide" is a short primer prepared by the House of Representative's Majority Staff Office. Includes information on the powers and privileges of a ConCon, past reasons for calling a convention, and issues addressed by previous Hawaii ConCons. You can find the primer on the Hawaii House Blog at <http://hawaiihouseblog.blogspot.com/2008/06/new-concon-citizens-guide-available-for.html>.

- **Constitutional Convention Cost Task Force**

An 11-member task force convened in May 2008 to develop an estimated cost for holding a ConCon. Visit the Lieutenant Governor's website at <http://hawaii.gov/lrgov/concon> for the final report "Projecting the Cost of a Constitutional Convention in Hawaii" (August 1, 2008) and an informative Q&A on the task force.

- **HawaiiConCon.org**

HawaiiConCon.org is an online grassroots effort to generate public discussion about the possibility of Hawaii's next Constitutional Convention and the potential issues that may be reviewed. This website features discussion forums, media articles, the Constitution and social networking tools to facilitate discussions about a ConCon.

- **League of Women Voters of Hawaii ("LWV-H")**

A local chapter of the national group, LWV-H works to provide voter education on issues specific to Hawaii. LWV-H produces reports and studies on ballot issues including the ConCon question. To view these papers, visit <http://www.lwv-hawaii.com>.